

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 with the following new paragraph:

- - The U.S. government may have rights in this invention due to partial support from the National Science Foundation (IBN-9630779). This application is a divisional of U.S. Ser. No. 09/661,960 filed September 14, 2000 issued as U.S. patent 6,696,622, which claims priority to U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/154,158 filed September 15, 1999. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, lines 16-21 with the following amended paragraph:

--FIG. 1 shows characteristics of the *rat5* mutant: (A) stable transformation of wild-type *Arabidopsis* ecotype Ws, the *rat5* mutant, and the F1 progeny; (B) sequence of the *rat5*/T-DNA junction region (**SEQ ID NO: 1**); (C) pattern of T-DNA integration in *rat5*: LB, T-DNA left border; RB, T-DNA right border; pBR322, pBR322 sequences containing the β -lactamase gene and ColE1 origin of replication; Tn903, kanamycin resistance gene for *E. coli* selection; Tn5, kanamycin resistance gene for plant selection.--